

ATTACHMENT A Executive Summary
Santa Barbara County Commission for Women
Countywide Women Speak Up Events: March 2018

Introduction

The Commission for Women is an appointed advisory body tasked with advising the County Board of Supervisors on public policies that aim to bolster women's access to services. The Commission holds annual leadership events to encourage participative expression from all sectors of the female community as part of their commitment to represent women's issues. 2018 events were held in Carpinteria, Isla Vista, Goleta, Lompoc, Guadalupe, Santa Maria (English/Spanish). Over 150 people attended the countywide events. Speakers participating in the events included staff from UCSB, campus police detectives, County Supervisors, County Behavioral Wellness, Santa Barbara Community College, Allan Hancock, School Principals and Superintendents, local non-profit staff (i.e., Community Action Commission, North County Rape Crisis Center, and Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Purpose of "Women Speak-Up" event

The purpose was to obtain a sense of the priority concerns affecting women and girls to help guide the Commission with their work and the Board with their decision-making. Areas where the Board may support women, girls and families countywide include legislation, policy, and guidance to departments or through budgetary decisions.

Event Results

Though many topics were brought to the forefront, the critical areas of concern that arose continue to be related to DACA, immigration/deportation, human trafficking, sexual assault/abuse (#me too movement), domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, issues affecting the LGBTQ community and persons with HIV/AIDs, and hate crimes, gender and race discrimination. Others included lack of sufficient mental health services (especially psychiatric services), gender wage gap, elder abuse (and lack of support for grandparents raising grandchildren without sufficient resources), teen dating/abuse, the need for increased multi-cultural sensitivity on campus and in general, improved campus security (all schools elementary – college), more mentors and counselors. New issues this year included: 1) the lack of affordable housing, 2) limited affordable child care services, 3) lack of well-paying jobs, 4) fear of gun violence in schools and 5) the new Cannabis legislation, (licensing and permitting. Cannabis concerns related to the location of cannabis facilities near schools (Carpinteria), and the concern that not enough women are being encouraged to participate in this new economic development opportunity. The Commission looks forward to meeting with County School Boards in addition to the County Board of Supervisors to inform of issues.

Expected Outcomes

To guide the Commission in their goals and objectives for the coming year and to provide information to the Board of Supervisors for use in their decision-making affecting women and girls and families.